This area is a gazetted Forest Reserve, and the official boundary, marked by a broad line where the bush and trees have been cut, runs some distance outside the actual area of trees; this boundary line is kept clear by the Forest Department, for it acts to some measure as a firebreak. It is also the upper boundary of a belt of European farms which occupy the land between the forest and the Tribal Reserve. No less strip of open ground between the trees and the farms most of the Dondo save live, and it is on these farms that some of them work.[1]

The forest itself is bordered in many places by a narrow belt of exotic trees (exotic refuses, the Eucalyptus rhombifolia), so as allow the men to eastern Kenya. Between the trees and the forest are glades (areas affording open spaces concealed from the outside world). The forest is evergreen "high forest", the trees many of them 100 ft. and more in height, growing close together so that the branches and foliage which are mostly at the top form a crown or canopy that shades the ground from the sun. All ground over the open between the trees is largely covered with thick, tough undergrowth and giant thistles, up to a height of more than six feet, which make it impossible to travel except along a path. The rainfall is heavy and mists are frequent. In the dry months there is occasional heat-haze in open ground. In a month of the dense tree cover, the forest is always wet during the rains and in the dry months some exotic drops before the damp disappears.

From any commercial point of view the forest is perhaps not of very exciting value, but it is that dense natural cover and an ideal home for the Dondo who do not judge trees by their value as merchantable timber. Of the many kinds of tree in the forest, the following have been described:

Cassia, Kiswa sp.	Brachylaena rugosa, mukinduri
Podocarpus usambarensis, kihingaro	Aphloia theiformis sp.
Ekebergia, Kiha sp.	Teclea, mwau nyeusi
Cedrela odorata, mukuruwe	Croton, mukui, kilyamboleo
Strombosia, pelgopteris, mnagaikwa	Croton, giant, mkuru
Podocarpus, Kihiyo sp.	Ficus, Kiwa sp.
Olea africana, mkarakacha	Ficus, umbellata, nguma
Cassia, Kiwa sp.	Ficus, pellucida, mkuyu
Prunus, Kwaboa sp.	

When the Dondo lived in the forest, their homesteads were modified to survive and hardly discernible paths through the undergrowth, remnants some of these paths are still used as approaches to forest beasts and giant crops. The forest can be traversed by two roads only, one running from Rabai to Kaloleni, the other parallel to it from Mazeras to Kaloleni. From today the only through routes people going to Kaloleni have to go along either the northern or the southern edge of the forest.

[1] The forest was originally split into three areas, one to the north, occupied and controlled by the Giriama, the Kaya-dwelling Mijikenda, and two to the south of the Mombasa-Malindi road, one of which was occupied by the Dondo and the other by Digo and Duruma people.

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